

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 475

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJECT: DEMOCRATS ELECT SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. THE DEMOCRAT PARTY ELECTED ITS SECRETARY-GENERAL AND SIX ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AT A PARTY CONCLAVE ON JULY 3. DAMRONG LATTHAPHIPHAT, MINISTER OF COMMERCE, BECAME THE FIRST ELECTED SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE DEMOCRAT PARTY BY POLLING 352 VOTES OF THE 469 VOTES CAST. HE HAD BEEN SECRETARY-GENERAL SINCE NOVEMBER WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE POSITION BY PARTY LEADER M.R. SENI PRAMOT.

2. HIS OPPONENTS WERE BUNYING NANTHAPHIWAT, BANGKOK MP; DR. KAMON SOMWICHIAN, DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR TECHNICAL AFFAIRS AND BANGKOK MP; AND AMNUAI SUWANNAKHIRI, SONGKHLA MP. HIS ELECTION WAS ASSURED WHEN SAMAK SUNTHARAWET, HIS MOST FORMIDABLE OPPONENT AND BITTER RIVAL, BOWED OUT OF THE CONTEST TWO WEEKS AGO. THREE OTHER PROMINENT DEMOCRATS REFUSED TO RUN FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S POSITION. THEY WERE BANYAT BANTHATHAN, SURAT THANI MP AND DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL; CHAIWAT TRAIYASUNAN, PECHABUN MP AND DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL; AND KRAISON TANTIPHONG, CHIANG MAI MP AND UNOFFICIAL LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATS FROM THE NORTH.

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3. THE FOLLOWING WERE ELECTED TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.
PHANTHIPHA WATCHAROBON, BANGKOK MP, AND SUTHIN CHAICHIT, YASOTHON
MP FROM THE NOMINEES PROPOSED BY THE DEMOCRAT MP'S; AMNUAI
SUWANNAKHIRI, SONGKHLA MP, AND CHOLOEMPHAN SIWIKON, PROMINENT
BANGKOK BUSINESSMAN, FROM THE NOMINEES PROPOSED BY THE DELEGATES
FROM THE PARTY BRANCHES; AND BUNYING NANTHAPHIWAT, BANGKOK MP,
AND KRAISON TANTIPHONG, CHIANG MAI MP, FROM THE NOMINEES PROPOSED
BY THE PARTY LEADER, MR SENI PRAMOT. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE NOW
HAS 27 MEMBERS.
WHITEHOUSE

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